

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, October 16, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer	Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
Robert Emerson	Peter Martin, Forestry Council Chairman

Absent: William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., and Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Kathi Spangler, Milton Melendez, Cathy Mesick, and Scott Blaier.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:29 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Scot Blaier informed the Board that we have a total of 1,170 farms in preservation districts totaling 163,530 acres, with a total of 754 farms under agricultural easements totaling 110,954 acres at a cost of \$198,780,209. For PDR 18, there are a total of 104 farms, comprising 10,919 acres, with a value of \$55,293,000. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that we have 14 farms in the first two rounds in our Young Farmers Loan Program. For round 3, we have settled the loans for 5 of the 8 applications. There is one application that we need to discuss in our Executive Session. Both Austin Short and Mike Parkowski believe we are doing very well with the Young Farmers Program. Secretary Kee stated that the Governor loves this program.

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that 254 non-Federal parcels have been visited out of a total of 664 parcels.

IV. District Eligibility:

1. Stokely Pettyjohn Tract District, ID#S-13-09-268. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility the Stokely Pettyjohn Tract District, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. Givens Expansion of the Phillips District, ID#S-13-10-015D. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Givens Expansion of the Phillips District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Woodduck Expansion of the St. Augustine District, ID#N-13-04-220C. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Woodduck Expansion of the St. Augustine District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above District and Expansions.

VIII. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

IX. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the September 18, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Kevin Coyle moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of September 30, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of September 30, 2013, \$ 63,810.50 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$10.22, and license plate monies received in September totaled \$630.00. Expenditures for the month of September totaled \$26,855.76. After discussion, **Robert Emerson moved to accept the September financial statement as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

XI. Executive Session:

It was indicated by the Chairman that there was a need for an Executive Session. **Allen Messick moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.** The Executive Session started at 8:55 a.m.

The Executive Session ended at 9:58 a.m. **William Vanderwende moved to go out of Executive Session, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion unanimously approved.**

XII. County, Open Space, and Aglands Preservation Cooperative Land Acquisition Initiatives.

After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to support the concept of Foundation pursuit of the County/Open Space/ Aglands and Private Cooperative Land Acquisition Initiatives, and authorized staff to continue working on the project. Seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

XIII. Other Business:

1. Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation Expiration Dates of Board Members' Terms of Office.

Austin Short indicated that five Board members' terms of office are/have expired this year: Theodore P. Bobola, Jr., Robert Emerson, Allen Messick, Chip Narvel and William Vanderwende. Austin asked each Board member to let him know if they wished to continue serving. Secretary Kee stated that it would be appreciated if everyone could continue to serve on the Board.

Austin Short mentioned that Kathi Spangler is now working full-time for the program.

Mr. Short then informed the Board that our Round 17 Federal easement settlements have been delayed due to numerous difficulties; most recently the Federal government shutdown. Our Round 18 PDR announcements may be delayed because of our Round 17 delays.

Mr. Vanderwende informed the Board that the new State Conservationist will begin November 3.

Austin Short announced that the annual Century Farm Ceremony also include recognition of the Round 2 and Round 3 Young Farmer Loan recipients. The ceremony should occur during either the 2nd or 3rd week of November at the Ag Museum, and we will notify Board members when the date is confirmed.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on November 20, 2013 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman